



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
*Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights*

***Italy's contribution in relation to the request of  
the Office of the High Commissioner for the  
Human Rights of the United Nations pursuant  
to HRC Resolution 31/7 on the rights of the  
child***

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## **Italy's contribution in relation to the request of the Office of the High Commissioner for the Human Rights of the United Nations pursuant to HRC Resolution 31/7 on the rights of the child**

Following to your query, Italian Authorities are in a position to provide the following information.

### **1. What key lessons learned from the experience of implementing the Millennium Development Goals should be taken into account to ensure that the rights of the child are protected in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**

The activities of Italian Development Cooperation have long-standing traditions. Initiatives and beneficiary countries are selected according to international guidelines and commitments. The activities are mainly focused on the African continent (Sub-Saharan Africa), on countries with which Italy signed important international commitments (Afghanistan, Lebanon) and on areas where the Italian presence has deep historical roots (Latin America, Middle East and Mediterranean region). As it regards the main areas of intervention, the following ones could be mentioned: poverty reduction; sustainable development; the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; education for all; food security; e-government; the rights of children, adolescents and young adults. The main partners in the realization of cooperation programs are: Italian ministries, central and local public agencies, universities, NGOs, companies, the European Union, international organizations and developing countries.

In line with the Italian contribution in the definition of the UN post-2015 Agenda) and following the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Italy is now engaged in a proactive debate both internationally and nationally. At the latter level, a consultation process within the "Inter-Institutional Committee on Cooperation for Development" has been started with the participation of all actors of the Italian Cooperation. In this regard a huge number of projects – available on the website <http://openaid.esteri.it/en/> - could represent an interesting and effective example to be followed in the ongoing and future development cooperation national programme. According to this approach, special working methods, complex programs divided into different projects and even guidelines now in force can be considered as useful best practices in the new development cooperation setting. While there is no standard model, there exist different parameters based on the nature of the problem. For example, most Italian best

practices emphasize the importance of promoting gender equality and social inclusion, while others give priority to the protection of minors or to the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission.

Moving from 2015 to 2017, great importance has been attached for redefining the profile and goals of Italian Development Cooperation. At the internal level, the Italian Parliament has approved the new Act No. 125/2014, which organically reforms the rules concerning cooperation and Stability Law has progressively confirmed and consolidated the available resources, in coherence with a gradual and realistic way to reenter into European standards after many years of budget constraints.

In this framework the new key challenges and related actions of the Italian Development Cooperation have been outlined for the 2015-2017 three-year period, by referring to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and including specific notes about the promotion and protection of children rights in relation to other relevant issues such as food security and the eradication of malnutrition conditions, the enhancement of healthcare and education basic services, with specific focus on the most vulnerable, such as women and children.

**2. What approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda would ensure the protection of the rights of all children, and that no child is left behind? Please define your response in relation to the following areas:**

**a. Equality and non-discrimination**

Within the 2015-2017 three-year programming period, Italy has included as one of its main fields of work the promotion of children education, so far achieving the goals of the ‘Education for all’ Initiative and ensure the respect of the right to quality education without any sort of discrimination. In particular, working closely with UNESCO, Italy has supported several “institutional capacity development” actions, i.e. in favour of the “Global partnership for education” to improve the availability of financial resources and to give good orientations for national educational plans as well as to strengthen the interventions already in place in some relevant Countries in relation to: education of young girl children, improvement of quality education, training of teachers. Furthermore targeted support is granted for the UNSG “Education first” Initiative to encourage the match between education and access to the job market, the global citizenship approach, the environmental protection, conflict resolutions and reaffirmation of peace, democracy and human rights.

In the same framework also the traditional work to combat global diseases is confirmed through the financial support to the Global Fund to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and the launch of new financial tools such as the “Advanced market commitment” and the “International finance facility for immunisation” – for the latter an contribution of 100 million euros for 2016-2020 has been granted. Specific attention will be also devoted to the maternal and children healthcare in the framework of the “Muskoka Initiative” launched

by Canada in 2020, aimed at training the health personnel to ensure the healthcare system and the assistance addressed to mothers and children.

#### **b. Investing in children**

Following the Italian participation to the Addis Abeba Conference on development financing, on the occasion of the UN Forum on financing for development Italy has reiterated its commitment to work in several Countries (i.e. LCDs, SIDs, fragile States), through a strong cooperation between the recently established Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and its executive financial branch, represented by a public financial institution (Cassa Depositi e Prestiti). Among the main fields under attention, the nexus between migration and development – involving children on the move, equal opportunities and gender empowerment, the role of women and children in the rural areas and in the agricultural sectors, have been included to this scope, using the ODA financial resources available, further improved for 2017-2018.

#### **c. Partnerships for implementation**

The above mentioned Act reforming the Italian Development Cooperation aims to systematically update the overview of the system by reorganizing the actors, instruments, modes of action and standard principles which, in the meantime, have evolved in the international community. This legal framework defines a new "governance architecture" for the development cooperation system, whose coherence and policy coordination will be overseen by the Inter-ministerial Committee on Development Cooperation (CICS), that is a task force made up of the ministries responsible for development cooperation activities.

At the same time the establishment of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation is in line with a standard model currently in use in all main European countries, so that it answers the need strongly felt by cooperation actors which has been put forth in parliamentary reform proposals. It will lay greater value on already existing professional roles and attract new ones; thanks to increased flexibility, it will also allow use of the most innovative multi-stakeholders cooperation strategies, which are incompatible with the present legal set-up, also to work for the achievement of the key-goals mentioned in the 2015-2017 three-year programming period, including the promotion and protection of children rights.

#### **d. Accountability and monitoring**

Within the 2015-2017 three-year programming period, the protection of human rights of vulnerable, in particular women and children, has been included adopting the former methodological monitoring targeted/cross-cutting approach called STREAMED (synthetic transparent realistic exhaustive agreed measurable). In particular it will be used in projects focusing on women empowerment and prevention of all

forms of violence (i.e. GFM, forced marriages, trafficking and smuggling), on access to health services, basic education and vocational training, involving all concerned stakeholders (NGOs, private actors, central and local authorities, citizens).

In terms of identification of new monitoring & evaluation tools about development cooperation interventions, Italy is committed to use statistical knowledge and related standards as instruments for institutional building processes, in line with the ongoing exercise of definition of indicators, goals and targets within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development framework and the positive results and follow-up of the Busan Summit. Some good practices have been described in the Report “A World that counts: Mobilising the Data revolution for sustainable Development”, prepared by an ad hoc UN Working group under the direction of Professor Giovannini (former President of the National Institute of Statistics and Ministry of Labour and Social Policies). The data revolution challenge encompasses specific aspects concerning also women and children, and the need for a more comprehensive collection of basic and disaggregated data also to counter act invisible situations where children are the most exposed to phenomena such as labour exploitation and trafficking.